REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 37-44 which correspond to previously canceled claims 17-22, 25 and 26. The record shows that claims 17-22, 25 and 26 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to place the remaining pending claims at that time in condition for allowance. However, the present Office Action has set forth rejections based on newly cited art and the previous indication of allowability of claims 1-14 and 29-36 has been withdrawn. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

Claims 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Talati et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,903,878. Claims 1-14 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Talati et al (Talati) and further in view of Wiecha, U.S. Patent No. 5,870,717. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and examination of new claims 37-44 in view of the following.

The present invention is directed to an electronic commerce support method and system, as described on page 4, lines 1-9, for example, which is capable of managing and utilizing trading information in electronic commerce, and acquiring a present status of processing for trading corresponding to the managed information. This enables a buyer to readily know the correspondence between orders and delivered products, for example, including information about

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unpaid orders, the total amount for the unpaid orders and similar trading processing information.

In Talati, the Examiner relies upon col. 8, lines 62-67, for example with respect to the disclosure in the reference of an e-mail record 330 and unique transaction identifier (UTID) 331. However, this disclosure does not suggest to one having ordinary skill in the art of providing a client with present status of processing of trading as in the present invention. In particular, Talati discloses an e-mail system that provides a traceable delivery system enabling electronic commerce between an originator 50, recipient 55 and transaction administrator 60. The system of Talati is designed to guaranty the validity of the electronic commerce transaction by validating that the client owns a presented credit card number and has initiated the transaction (col. 8, lines 29-35). Thus, according to Talati, electronic commerce transactions are validated with respect to whether the client who initiates the electronic commerce is the authorized user of an account number or electronic check. For example, a transaction administrator 60 may query the client via an e-mail message to confirm whether the client has initiated the transaction. If a UTID matches an entry within the client list 100 maintained by the client 50, the client can generate an e-mail message indicating that the requested transaction originated with the client thereby validating the transaction request. See col. 11, lines 2-16 of Talati. Accordingly, the

reference does not disclose the communication of trading processing information such as the present status of processing for delivery of a product corresponding to an order, as set forth in claim 1.

Further, Wiecha does not overcome the deficiencies of the Talati reference. In particular, Wiecha is directed to an electronic commerce ordering system wherein trading process information is added to trading information to make a contract for the trade, as described at col. 4, lines 1-30 of the reference, for example. Accordingly, the combination of Talati and Wiecha is insufficient to render the invention as set forth in the pending claims unpatentable. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 rejections should be withdrawn.
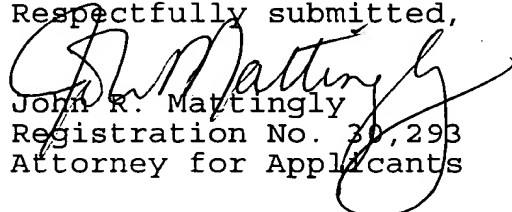
Applicants particularly note that claim 1 recites in combination a step of transmitting an order for a product to a server and a step of receiving trading information including an e-mail address from the network. The claim includes a step of receiving trading processing information from the network including an e-mail address. Also, the trading processing information includes the present status of processing for delivery of the product or order. As an additional step, the trading identifier is compared with the e-mail address included in the trading information and a warning is output if they are not coincident. If they are coincident, then the trading processing information is added to the trading information stored in a storage device. This aspect of the

claimed combination of claim 1 is not suggested by the Talati reference in view of Wiecha. Therefore, claims 1-14 and 29 are patentable over the Talati and Wiecha combination.

Each of the pending claims is directed to transmitting trading processing information to the client which includes the present status of processing for processing initiated for an order. This aspect of the claimed combination is also not set forth in the references relied upon by the Examiner in the 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 rejections, nor in any of the remainder of the art of record. Accordingly, each of the pending claims is patentable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 5, 2001